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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 November 1999 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the State terrorism in which the United States engages against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 3 November 1999 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter dated 5 June 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you concerning actions taken by the Government of the United States of America against the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and that Government's blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs (S/1999/651, annex).

On the present occasion, I should like to call your attention to a report published by The New York Times in its issue for 28 October 1999 concerning the military training that the United States is to provide for mercenary groups of Iraqi nationals collaborating with its intelligence agencies so that it may use them as its instruments for conspiring against Iraq.

The report states, inter alia, that:

"The Administration has authorized the first direct military training for opponents of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, senior officials said today. ...

"... American officials will school them on how to organize a military in an emerging State. Other courses are being prepared.

...

"... The officials said they expected to offer space to more Iraqis in other Pentagon courses. ...

"... While the Central Intelligence Agency has provided covert support to Iraqi dissidents in the past, this is the first overt military assistance. ..."

The foregoing leaves no room for doubt that the provision of funding and training to these terrorists by the United States of America means that it is a State that sponsors international terrorism. The action in question also comes within days of the adoption by consensus of Security Council resolution 1269 (1999), and this provides a further indication of the contempt in which the United States holds the resolutions of the Security Council. This new action is also in flagrant violation of the resolution itself, and in particular of its fourth, seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs, by which the Council emphasizes "the necessity to intensify the fight against terrorism at the national level and to strengthen ... effective international cooperation in this field on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law", states its determination "to contribute ... to the efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms" and reaffirms "that the suppression of acts of international terrorism, including those in which States

are involved, is an essential contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security".

Such actions on the part of the United States against Iraq require the international community and its institutions to respond with the rejection and condemnation they deserve. The United States is a permanent member of the Security Council, and it thus has obligations under the Charter with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security. When it breaches its obligations under these principles, it destroys the legal foundations that have been laid by the international community for the conduct of relations between States and places international peace and security in the greatest jeopardy.

The United Nations has a legal and moral responsibility to defend the principles of the Charter, to oppose attempts to undermine the unity and independence of its Member States and to reject a United States policy that seeks to return the international community to the law of the jungle and the rule of brute force. Until such time as the international community and its institutions take action to halt these hostile practices, the people of Iraq will continue its defiance of American State terrorism in order to preserve its territorial integrity, its independence and its right to a life of dignity and to defend the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and the right of peoples to self-determination.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq